



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECAST COUNCIL

Capital Plaza Building, PO Box 40912 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0912 • (360) 570-6100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For further information, contact
State Representative Jim McIntire
(360) 786-7886**

Steve Lerch Selected as Interim Head of Forecast Council

OLYMPIA, March 13, 2008 --- The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council has named Steve Lerch to serve as interim director while it searches for a permanent replacement for former director ChangMook Sohn.

Lerch currently is research director for the Washington State Investment Board. Prior to that, he was senior assistant director for tax policy for the Department of Revenue, and in that capacity worked closely with the Forecast Council. He holds a doctorate in economics from Johns Hopkins University.

Lerch also has worked for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Washington State Senate Ways and Means Committee, Washington State Office of Financial Management, and Joint Committee on Taxation for the U.S. Congress.

Council Chair Jim McIntire said council members were impressed with Steve's experience. Council members are confident that he has the skills to maintain the integrity of the state's unique forecasting process. Lerch has extensive economic background and demonstrates the type of leadership that the Council requires to steer the agency while a national search for a permanent replacement is conducted.

McIntire said the Council expects to use the Department of Personnel's Executive Careers Search Services to conduct a nationwide search for a permanent replacement.

The Forecast Council was formed in 1984 to provide independent and objective forecasts of state revenues to the governor and Legislature. The Council members are appointed by the Governor, and the chairs of the two largest caucuses in the Senate and House of Representatives.